

## **THAILAND'S GREEN LABEL SCHEME**

### **Introduction**

The Thai Green Label Scheme was initiated by the Thailand Business Council for Sustainable Development in October 1993. It was formally launched by the Thailand Environmental Institute (TEI) in association with the Ministry of Industry in August 1994. The scheme awards a seal of approval to products meeting its criteria, and is voluntary in nature.

The program was developed with three objectives in mind: to provide reliable information and guide customers in their product choices; to create an opportunity for consumers to make environmentally conscious decisions and thus create a market incentive for manufacturers to supply environmentally sound products; and to reduce environmental impacts that occur during manufacture, use, consumption and disposal of products. To date, the program has developed product criteria for nine product groups. The Green Label has been awarded to 41 products to date in seven of the nine product categories.

### **Recent Developments**

The program reports that it has not undergone any significant changes since its inception.

### **Program Summary**

The Thai Green Label is composed of several committees. The Thai Green Label Board is the overarching entity responsible for making all major decisions, including deciding on basic strategies, selecting product groups for consideration, deciding on criteria, deciding on the structures and levels of fees, and deciding on supporting activities. Its members are appointed by the Minister of the Ministry of Industry.

The Board is supported by two groups: the Technical Subcommittee and the Secretariat (TEI and The Thai Industrial Standards Institute-TISI). The Technical Subcommittee develops proposals including product criteria, test methods, and the requirements for applicants. A new subcommittee is established for each product category, composed of experts from relevant institutes, industry, and environmental groups. The Secretariat organizes meetings and prepares materials to be discussed by the Board.

The general public presents proposals for product groups to the Secretariat, which are then submitted to the Board. Once the Board decides on the product categories, it sets up a technical subcommittee to work on the criteria. The Secretariat is then responsible for submitting the final proposal to the Board, which decides on the criteria and announces the decision to the public. The criteria are developed on the basis of a life-cycle review and are reviewed every two years. The draft criteria are made available to the general public upon request. The public can provide comments on the draft criteria. Responses and critiques to these comments are not published.

Once award criteria have been set, product applications are accepted. TEI examines applications to make sure that all criteria are met, and then passes them along to TISI for further investigation. Once criteria fulfillment has been determined, TEI registers the application and enters into a contract with the manufacturer. An application fee of 1,000 Baht (\$29 US) is collected from the applicant, and then another fee of 5,000 Baht (\$144 US) is collected once the product has been awarded the label. TEI is responsible to ensure that the label is not misused.

### **Program Methodology**

When choosing product categories, the Green Label uses “life-cycle-considerations” which evaluate products based on their environmental impacts at each stage of the product’s life-cycle. Additionally, a political process and stakeholder and legislative body votes are used to choose product categories. When product categories are selected, the product criteria are drafted.

Information for draft criteria are obtained from independent studies and testing, participating producers, and other programs’ previous LCAs. In fact, the Green Label maintains contact with ecolabeling programs in Singapore, the EU, and Japan, and have adopted some of these programs’ criteria in establishing its criteria. Criteria take into account product uses, potential for reuse, potential for recycling, ingredients, resource use, and wastes generated during final disposal.

### **Other Information**

The Thai Green Label program is accessible to both small and medium sized business. The Thailand Industrial Standards Institute is a member of ISO, and a representative attends ISO meeting on a regular basis. The Green Label program maintains contact with the German, Singapore, EU and Japan ecolabeling programs. Germany has, in fact, helped them to form their program. The program does not report any trade conflicts to date, with regard to the Green Label. Thailand is not a member of GEN.

### **References**

Green Label Thailand. Product Category Summary. July 1997.

Green Label Thailand. *A Guide to the Thai Green Label Scheme*. August 1997.

Heinke, Gary W. et. al. *Final Report: Development of an Eco-label Certification Programme for Hong Kong/ RC96-19*. Hong Kong: Research Centre of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, June 1996.

## **Product Categories**

### *Final Categories*

- Products made from recycled plastics
- Energy-saving fluorescent lamps
- Environmentally sound refrigerators
- Low-pollutant emulsion paints
- Water-economizing flushing toilets
- No mercury-added dry-cell batteries
- Recycled paper
- Low-energy air conditioners
- CFC-free sprays

### *Guidelines Under Consideration*

- Environmentally sound detergents
- Energy-saving motors
- Water-economizing closing faucets
- Products made from non-bleached cloth

